

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117410

PLEASE PASS TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DALLEY

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 6990 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW
DATED MAY 8, 1978,.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 06990

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, PORT

SUBJECT: US-ILO RELATIONS: APPLICATIONS OF CONVENTIONS

REF: STATE 116109

FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

1. I MET WITH ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD THIS
MORNING REGARDING REFTEL. HE WAS SURPRISED AND
DISAPPOINTED BY THE POSITION OF THE CLC WORKING PARTY
GROUP REGARDING HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT THE COMMITTEE ON
APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CACR)
REPORTS BE NOTED RATHER THAN SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE
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FOR ACCEPTANCE OR REFUSAL. THE TWO BASIC REASONS FOR HIS
RECOMMENDATION WERE (A) TO ELEVATE THE STATUS OF THE CACR
REPORT TO A QUASI-JUDICIAL LEVEL THEREBY CAUSING THE
FINDINGS TO BE SELF-EXECUTING AND (B) BECAUSE HE BELIEVED
THIS RECOMMENDATION WOULD DO MUCH TO ARREST THE TREND
WHICH THE US HAS CRITICIZED TO THE POLITIZATION OF THE ILO
MACHINERY. HE POINTS OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT MOST

COUNTRIES, WHEN SUBJECT TO CRITICISM IN A REPORT, ARE UNDER STRONG POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM THEIR CAPITALS TO REJECT THE REPORT. A POLITICAL PROCESS THEN BEGINS WHERE THE CRITICIZED COUNTRIES SEEK VOTES IN SUPPORT OF REJECTION FROM MEMBERS POLITICALLY FRIENDLY TO THEM. BLANCHARD'S HOPE IS TO STRENGTHEN THE COMPLIANCE MACHINERY AND TO CAUSE MEMBERS TO USE IT MORE FREQUENTLY. HE IS LEAVING FOR THE SOVIET UNION TOMORROW AND EXPECTS TO BE SEVERELY CRITICIZED IN MOSCOW FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION WHICH THEY REGARD AS DANGEROUS TO THEM. MY SENSE OF THE SITUATION IS THAT BLANCHARD IS PERPLEXED BY THE WORKING PARTY GROUP REACTION, HAVING UNDERTAKEN THE RISK OF A RECOMMENDATION IN THE HOPE OF REASSURING THE US AS TO HIS COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE COMPLIANCE MACHINERY.

2. BLANCHARD'S RECOMMENDATION IS ALREADY PART OF HIS REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE WHICH HAS JUST BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBER STATES. IN ORDER FOR THE RECOMMENDATION TO BECOME EFFECTIVE, IT MUST BE ADOPTED BY THE CACR AND THEN BY THE CONFERENCE. IF THE US PERSISTS IN ITS OPPOSITION TO THE RECOMMENDATION, HOWEVER, THE SECRETARIAT, IN MY OPINION, WILL NOT PRESS FOR ADOPTION. VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE VANCE

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